



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, D.C. 20250

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Number 8

Released: May 14, 2004

AGRICULTURAL SURVEY IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THE FACTS

Richmond, May 14, 2004 - How many acres will be planted to Virginia crops? What impact have spring planting and growing conditions meant for American agriculture? What are the latest livestock trends? To gather reliable, objective information, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will have their interviewers contact a sample of agricultural producers during June and early July. NASS works with farmers and ranchers throughout the year to provide meaningful, accurate and objective statistics that serve U.S. agriculture.

There is always speculation about each new crop season. Kevin Barnes of the Virginia's Agricultural Statistics Service said, "This survey is particularly vital because it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major commodities in 2004."

The up-to-date results are an unbiased snapshot of agriculture from the best source—the producers. Producers rely on the data to make production and marketing plans. The information gathered is widely valued by agriculture's supporters, too. Producer associations, extension agents, industry analysts and Congress use the information in a variety of ways that benefit farmers.

"We safeguard the confidentiality of all survey responses," Barnes reminds producers. "Information from individual operations is combined with other responses to provide the important regional, State and national data."

All agricultural statistics published by NASS are available at www.usda.gov/nass/ . For more information, call 1-800-772-0670.

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